

to normal and that the towns devastated by Katrina can be rebuilt. For leading the way and reminding us of our ability to recover from such storms, the Indiana National Guard, and all volunteers working in the gulf today, deserve our thanks.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for yesterday's vote on the Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the treaty.

#### PONTIFICAL VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS ARAM I

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the Armenian American community in welcoming the upcoming Pontifical visit of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. The Pontiff will be visiting the State of California this October at the invitation of His Eminence, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America.

His Holiness is one of the most prominent Christian leaders in the Middle East and a spiritual leader for hundreds of thousands of Armenians around the world. The Pontiff presently serves as the Moderator for the World Council of Churches which is comprised of more than 340 churches from different cultures and countries around the world representing over 400 million Christians. Currently serving his second term, His Holiness is the first Orthodox and the youngest person to be elevated to Moderator.

The theme of the Pontiff's visit is "Towards the Light of Knowledge." This theme reflects the Pontiff's faith that only with greater education and dialogue can the world's conflicts be addressed properly.

I take this opportunity to not only thank The Pontiff for his time and worthy endeavors in California, but also thank the sizable Armenian community which has been actively contributing to the California culture and economy since 1878. California cities of Los Angeles and Glendale are home to the second and third largest populations of Armenians outside of Armenia and are important members of their communities serving as business leaders and city council members.

#### TRIBUTE TO HARRIS H. SIMMONS

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a son of Utah and a good friend, Mr. Harris H. Simmons, who today, by the selection of his peers, becomes the next chairman of the American Bankers Association. I am honored to highlight a few of his accomplishments, including his signifi-

cant contributions to the banking world and to the State of Utah.

Mr. Simmons is currently the chairman, president and CEO of Zions Bancorporation. With its corporate offices in Salt Lake City, UT, Zions operates in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington. It is included in the S&P 500 Index, and is a national leader in Small Business Administration lending.

Harris started banking at the age of 16, when as a summer job he filed canceled checks at Zions. He continued his work at Zions in the investment department as he studied economics at the University of Utah. Harris then left Utah for a period as he furthered his studies and received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Upon graduating, Harris took a job in Houston, TX for Allied Bancshares. After a year and a half, he returned to Zions and became the chief financial officer at the age of only 27. Nine years later he was named president and CEO of the multibillion-dollar asset bank holding company which has seen fantastic growth and success as it has helped build communities and business under his leadership.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Harris has been an invaluable member of the Utah community. He has served as president of the Utah Foundation, chairman of the Utah Symphony, and chairman of the Economic Development Corporation of Utah. He currently serves as president of the Shelter-the-Homeless Committee, as well as cochairman of the Utah Committee of the Newcomen Society of the United States. Most importantly, he is a loving husband and father of four.

This is but a small glimpse of Harris Simmons' contributions and accomplishments. I commend him to my colleagues as they have the opportunity to meet with him as he serves in his new role with the American Bankers Association. The American Bankers Association is privileged to have Harris Simmons as its new chairman.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARK SALO

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to salute Mark Salo, who is retiring this fall after more than 31 years as the head of Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties, PPSDRC. A pioneer and visionary in the field of reproductive health care, he is a great champion of women's health and freedom of choice.

When Mark Salo began working with San Diego Planned Parenthood in 1974, it comprised one small clinic whose 12 employees provided 5,000 patient visits a year. Today PPSDRC is the second-largest Planned Parenthood affiliate in the Nation, with an annual budget of \$35 million and 400 employees who provide more than 200,000 patient visits.

The San Diego/Riverside affiliate has been a pioneer in the expansion of med-

ical services to include vasectomies, tubal ligations, prenatal care, and mifepristone. PPSDRC oversees an Emmy-award-winning teen theatre and a variety of innovative teen outreach programs. It offers local midlife services, male and female sterilization services, and a thriving prenatal practice.

Mark has reached across the border from San Diego to build a Planned Parenthood of truly international scope by developing and funding a binational program in northern Baja California, Mexico. PPSDRC's "Mexico Fund" supports five medical facilities in the poor colonias around Tijuana and funds contraceptive programs in the foreign-owned manufacturing plants known as maquiladoras.

Over the years, Mark has also become the most visible public advocate of reproductive rights in the San Diego region. He represents Planned Parenthood through television news, interview shows, debate forums, newspaper commentaries, and live radio appearances.

I know that everyone who values women's health and reproductive freedom will join me in saluting Mark Salo and sending him best wishes for a well-earned, active retirement.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2123. An act to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3765. An act to extend through December 31, 2007, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1771—To express the sense of Congress and to improve reporting with respect to the safety of workers in the response and recovery activities related to Hurricane Katrina, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated: